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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama: draft resolution

International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions on the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance during the transition period, a process of peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building, in particular resolutions 49/137 and 49/21 I of 19 and 20 December 1994, respectively, which emphasize the compelling need to design a new programme for international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance for Central America geared to the new circumstances in the region and based on the priorities established by the Governments of the region,

Recalling resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993 and 49/215 of 23 December 1995 on assistance in mine clearance, and recognizing with concern that the presence of mines and other unexploded devices on Central American territory has social, economic and humanitarian consequences that constitute an obstacle to the restoration of normal conditions for development throughout the region,

Recalling also the efforts and aspirations of the peoples and Governments of the isthmus to make Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

Recognizing the valuable and effective contribution made by the United Nations, and by the various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms, towards enabling the Central American peoples fully to achieve their objectives of peace, freedom, democracy and development, and the importance of the political dialogue and economic cooperation taking place within the Ministerial Conference between the European Union and the Central American countries and the joint initiative of the industrialized countries of the Group of 24 and the countries of the Group of Three as cooperating countries, through the Association for Democracy and Development in Central America and other institutions,

Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, 1/ which describes the international cooperation activities implemented since January 1995 in support of the new regional development programme, following the conclusion of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America,

Recognizing the validity of the Declaration of Commitments in favour of populations affected both by uprootedness and by conflicts and extreme poverty, adopted at Mexico City on 29 June 1994, as well as the functions of lead agency assumed by the United Nations Development Programme, in replacement of the mandate previously performed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which are concentrated in priority social spheres,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the progress made, it is necessary to continue monitoring the situation in Central America until the underlying structural causes that gave rise to the deep crisis into which the region was plunged have been overcome, and to avoid setbacks in the process and consolidate a firm and lasting peace in Central America,

Recognizing also the importance and validity of the commitments assumed by the Central American presidents from the Esquipulas II summit meeting on 7 August 1987 2/ to the present, in particular at the summit meeting held at Guácimo, Costa Rica, from 18 to 20 August 1994, 3/ the Central American Environmental Summit for Sustainable Development held at Managua on 12 and 13 October 1994, 4/ the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America held at Tegucigalpa on 24 and 25 October 1994 5/ and the Sixteenth Summit Meeting of Central American Presidents held in El Salvador in March 1995, at which the priorities of the subregion were set which constitute

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1/ A/50/534.

2/ A/43/521-S/19085, annex.

3/ See A/49/340-S/1994/994, annex.

4/ See A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I.

5/ See A/49/639-S/1994/1247.

the framework for the new programme of international assistance and cooperation for Central America,

Underlining the establishment of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, which constitutes the new comprehensive strategy for national and regional development and defines political, economic, social and environmental priorities, and the signing, at the El Salvador Summit on 30 March 1995 of the Treaty on Central American Social Integration, 6/ one of the main objectives of which is to increase investment in human capital, and taking into account that the Central American Integration System is the institutional framework that makes it possible to promote integral development in an effective, orderly and coherent manner,

Taking into consideration the will of the Central American presidents to adopt a national and regional strategy entitled "Alliance for Sustainable Development" 4/ as a comprehensive initiative in the political, moral, economic, social and ecological fields, which includes a re-defining of the relations of Central America with the international community and is aimed at improving the well-being of the peoples of the subregion,

1. Emphasizes the importance of supporting and strengthening the new programme for international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance for Central America geared to the new circumstances in the region and based on the priorities laid down in the Declaration of Commitments adopted by the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees and in the new subregional strategy, the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America;

2. Notes with satisfaction the efforts and achievements relating to mine clearance in Central America, and appeals to the organs of the United Nations system and to the international community, and in particular to the Secretary-General, to provide the material, technical and financial support needed by the Central American Governments to complete mine-clearance activities in the region, including those activities among the priorities of the new programme of international assistance to and cooperation with Central America, so as to create improved conditions for promoting the process of reconstruction and sustainable development and hence, lasting and permanent peace in the region;

3. Supports the efforts of the Central American countries in their commitments to the alleviation of extreme poverty and the fostering of sustainable human development, and urges their Governments to continue their efforts to formulate and implement policies and programmes, especially those of a social and environmental character and those relating to investment in human capital;

4. Stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, in supporting the efforts of the Central American Governments to implement the new programme for the sustainable development of Central America;

6/ A/49/901-S/1995/396, annex VII.

5. Requests the Secretary-General, the United Nations system and, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme, to continue their efforts to mobilize resources in order to put into effect the new strategy for integral development in Central America contained in the Alliance for Sustainable Development and in the Declaration of Commitments, through arrangements that the Central American countries are to determine jointly with the cooperating community;

6. Urges all States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations to continue the necessary support for the implementation of the goals and objectives of the new strategy for integral development in Central America;

7. Again stresses the urgent need for the international community to maintain its cooperation with the Central American countries and to provide them with the necessary financial resources, in a sustained manner and on soft terms, where appropriate, with a view to promoting effectively the economic growth and development of the region;

8. Supports the decision of the Central American Governments to concentrate their efforts on the implementation of updated programmes with strategies for sustainable human development in previously determined priority areas, which help to consolidate peace and remedy social inequalities, extreme poverty and the social explosion;

9. Reiterates that only by solving the political, economic, social and environmental problems that are the cause of tensions and conflicts in society will it be possible to avoid a reversal of the achievements and guarantee a firm and lasting peace in Central America;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution at its fifty-second session;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America".